



Australian Bureau of Statistics

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A View From The Top

A View From The Top

From the Regional Director

There is nothing that focusses the mind more than the prospect of not having enough funding to do all the things that you would like to do. Over the last two years the ABS has had to do some serious re-evaluation of the programs that are most critical to best inform Government about the strategic policy challenges that lie ahead. In that re-evaluation process we have undergone a significant consultation process with key stakeholders at both Commonwealth and State level that has given us a far better appreciation of how our statistics are used.

Of course, if you ask enough stakeholders you will undoubtedly find that there is nothing the ABS does that is not valued by at least one of them. However, when there is insufficient funding to do everything, priorities must be established and there needs to be an acceptance that some valuable things cannot be continued.

The good news is that having gone through that consultation process, the Commonwealth Government has delivered a budget that increases the ABS funding base and delivers some new funds for new initiatives. This is a significant vote of confidence in the ABS and allows us to move forward with confidence. In particular, the voice of State Government has been heard with the ABS applying new funds to labour and related programs including the

reintroduction of the labour force sample, and to the State and Territory Statistical Service.

We now move forward with renewed enthusiasm and a renewed understanding of those statistics and services critical to the WA State Government.



Michael Tindall,
Government Statistician and
ABS Regional Director,
Western Australia

Latest WA Statistics

Latest WA Statistics

	WA	Australia
Population (Dec 2008)	2.2m	21.6m
CPI (annual rate, Mar 2009)	2.2% (Perth)	2.5%
Merchandise Exports* (Apr 2009)	\$6,484m	\$16,383m
Merchandise Imports* (Apr 2009)	\$2,144m	\$16,228m
Unemployment Rate** (May 2009)	5.0%	5.7%

*** Original estimates based on Australian Customs Service records. Figures are not based on a Balance of Payment basis.**

**** Trend data.**

The XX Factor

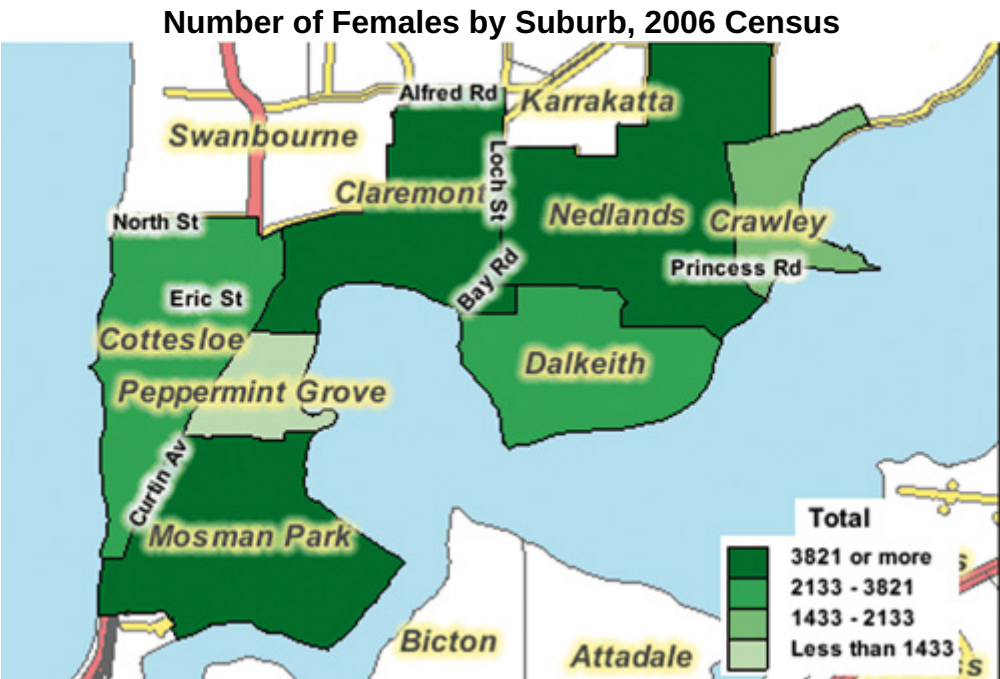
The XX Factor

A Chillaxed Look At The Ladies In Peppermint Grove

Welcome to the first instalment of a new section in the Stats Talk WA magazine - The XX Factor.

This page is devoted totally to women both young and old. It uses 2006 Census data to tell you a little bit more about the women living in a particular area than you would glean from just driving down the street. This quarter, we will put the magnifying glass on the wonderful

ladies living in Peppermint Grove.



As of Census night 2006, there were 1,580 persons usually resident in Peppy Grove, 897 (or 56.8%) female.

Of these females, 377 attended an educational institution. This accounts for 42% of the female population living in this area.

As far as jobs are concerned, the top 3 industries of employment in this neck of the woods for females were Retail Trade, Education & Training and Health Care & Social Assistance.

It was almost an even split between women who are married and those who are not (40%/60% split).

The most popular number of children for Peppy Grove mums was 2 (19%), followed by 3 children (17%). Forty-one percent of women had not had any children.

A Selection of Statistics for Peppermint Grove (sourced from Basic Community Profiles, 2006 Census)	
Number of females	897
Average age of females	32
% of married females (15+)	39.7%
No. attending an educational institution	377
Most dominant religious affiliation	Anglican (321 females)
% undertaking unpaid voluntary work (15+)	46.9%
% of females participating in the labour force (15+)	41.7%
% of unemployed females in the labour force (15+)	3.1%

Hit The Road, Jack

Hit The Road, Jack

State Supplementary Survey

(cat. no. 6209.5)

Would you cross a continent or come half way around the world just to get a job?

Well, in the two years to October 2008 almost 69,000 people did just that, arriving in WA looking for work.

The 2008 Labour Mobility and Intentions Survey shows how labour mobility occurred over the two years to October 2008 and what peoples' work intentions were at that time.

In October last year, there were 1,477,800 usual residents of private dwellings in WA aged 15 and over. Of these, 1,155,000 were employed (either working for an employer or self employed).

Occupation and Industry Mobility, Western Australia, Oct 2008



On The Move

In the three years to October, 148,900 people (aged 15 and over) moved to WA, with almost two thirds arriving from overseas and the remainder from interstate.

Almost half specifically came for work opportunities and three quarters were employed in 2008.

More than half of WA's employed population had a post school qualification. Of this group, two thirds were working in the field of their highest qualification.

About 375,700 employees had been in their current job for less than two years and, of these, 7 of every 10 had been in a previous job within the last two years. People over 24 were more likely to have changed jobs than younger people.

The proportion changing occupation was highest among people who were currently Managers (66%) and lowest among people who were currently Professionals and Technicians and trades workers (33% and 39% respectively).

More than 6 in every 10 employees who changed job in the two years prior to the survey

had moved to a job in a different industry. Change of industry was highest among people currently employed as Clerical and administrative workers, Machinery operators and drivers and Technicians and trades workers.

The most noticeable movements between industries occurred among people who were previously employed in the Construction, Information media and telecommunications and Administrative and support services industries.

Of people previously employed in the Construction industry 17% had moved to the Mining industry. Among those previously in the Information media and telecommunications and Administrative and support industries, 25% and 13% respectively had also moved to the Mining industry.

Why Change?

The most common reasons given by employees for changing their job were 'to obtain a better job/just wanted a change'; 'unsatisfactory work arrangements' and 'family reasons'.

About 10% of those working indicated an intention to leave their current job within the next 12 months. Almost 20% of 15–24 year olds and 14% of 25–34 year olds intended to change jobs. The proportion of older workers intending to change was much lower.

Over half of those intending to move were planning to move to a job within the same industry. Industry change intentions were more common among younger job changers.

People working in the field of their highest educational qualification represented almost half of those intending to move to a job in the same industry as their current job. Over half of those working without a post school qualification intended moving to a job in a different industry.

For further information about State Supplementary Surveys, please contact Trevor Draper on (08) 9360 5394.

Bulls & Bombs

Bulls & Bombs

IMPORTant And EXPORTable Facts

Have you ever wanted to know how many plastic statuettes are imported into Australia from Togo?

Maybe you have a burning desire to find out how many kilograms of toilet paper was brought into Western Australia in 2007 from the United Arab Emirates? Or perhaps the dollar value of Kangaroo Paws sent out from WA in 2008?

Using Australian Customs Data, the ABS can produce import and export tables through their client services area.

Export and import details like dollar value, how much, which country it originated from/is heading for and which state it went to/came from, can be readily found.

Stimulating Imports and Exports

For example; in 2008, quantities of bovine semen were imported to New South Wales,

Queensland and Victoria, but not to WA – no bull. However, WA did export 69 kg of bovine semen. Maybe it's this and not daylight saving that was the real cause of those unhappy cows.

Some interesting things that have been imported into WA from overseas include; 991 kg of un-worked diamonds (2008), \$212,320 of Vodka (2008), \$1,997,459 of mineral and aerated waters (2008) and one Ferris Wheel (2009).

Conversation Starters

Here are some more interesting figures that will make you the toast of your next dinner party. In 2006, \$1,294 worth of live reptiles were imported into Australia. Don't we have enough of our own?

Australia received \$4,650 of wood statues and other ornaments of wood from Iceland in 2008. In 2006 WA imported 170kg of un-worked human hair from Hong Kong.

Something that people may not know is that there are records kept regarding the import of 'Bombs, grenades, torpedoes, mines, missiles and similar munitions or war and parts thereof'.

At the risk of starting an international incident you could mention that the ABS has details on the import of these items from countries like Sweden, UK, USA, Austria, Canada and Finland in 2008.

One would hope that these items are heading straight to the Australian military. \$5,885 of these particular items were even imported from Belgium. Watch out for those chocolates, they could have a real kick in them.

Let the sun shine

Now that the daylight saving referendum has been decided, disgruntled YES voters may look to imports and exports to help them get over the shock (although on the bright side they probably will have another referendum to look forward to).

Things we may need to import:

- Daylight
- Curtains - replacing those that faded over the last 3 years
- Bovine Semen - to produce more happy cows
- Coffee - for people who have to start earlier because of the 3 hour time difference with the east

Things we may need to export:

- Leisure equipment - no extra hour of daylight to play in
- Clock Parts - no more winding back and forth twice a year
- Sunscreen
- Swine flu

Oh, and one Ferris Wheel!



Article by: Nellie Gaynor
Information Services Consultant

* The dollar figures in this article are FOB (free on board) which includes production and other costs incurred up until the goods are placed on board the carrier for export.

A Thirsty Country

A Thirsty Country

... I'll Buy The Next Round

Australia is known as the driest inhabited continent on Earth, so it should come as no surprise that Aussies are a thirsty lot.

But according to the latest *Apparent Consumption of Alcohol* statistics (cat. no. 4307.0.55.001), we're going a bit easier on the bottle than in recent years. Between 2006-07 and 2007-08, the apparent consumption of alcohol dropped by 0.5%, after increasing by 1.7% between 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Despite the overall drop, it seems breweries aren't getting the message, with total beer production growing from 1,800.7 million litres in 2006-07 to 1,826.5 million litres in 2007-08. That's about 110 litres of beer for every man and woman in Australia. Grape crushers around the country kept their feet a little cleaner, as vineyards pumped out 1.9 million litres less in 2007-08 than the previous year.

No, it's your shout

Between 2005-06 and 2007-08, the volume of alcohol drunk in pre-mixed beverages* grew by 10% per person (over the age of 15). Now that the prices of ready-to-drink beverages have risen, university students across the country will need to redirect their preferences in the search for cheap drinks.

This search has not resulted in an explosion in the sale of cask wine, somewhat surprisingly. According to the *Sales of Wine and Brandy by Winemakers* publication (cat. no. 8504.0), sales of red and rosé cask wine fell in the last two months, and sales of white cask wine have been falling for the last seven months straight. The global recession is obviously taking its toll on luxury items such as Chateau de Cardboard.

Export Hangover

It appears that Australians aren't the only ones cutting back on the booze. In 2007-08, Australia's wine exports totalled 715 million litres, 9.2% lower than in the previous financial year, and 1.0% lower than the year before that. After decades of growth in Australian wine exports, it looks like the rest of the world has finally had enough to drink (and might need some help staggering home).

But who's been indulging the most, you might ask? By volume, Uncle Sam has an unquenchable thirst for Aussie wine, downing 24 million litres of wine in the month of March alone. The Old Dart is also rather fond of a few glasses, with the UK importing 20 million litres of wine from Australia.

Down the hatch

Being a multicultural society, Australians have cultivated a taste for overseas wine. The French exported 329,000 litres of wine into Australia in March 2009. The Italians, who love their vino, kindly provided us with 567,000 litres in the same period. But the big surprise was New Zealand, which sent across 2,367,000 litres of wine, representing over two thirds of our

total wine imports for the month.

Considering Australia only exported 1,454,000 litres to New Zealand in the same period, this is one area where the Kiwis can claim supremacy over their old arch rivals. The abundance of wine flowing between the two countries has prompted calls for a Trans-Tasman Wine Pipeline, which may go some way towards improving relations between the two nations.



Article By: Paul Burns
Client Liaison Unit

* Pre-mixed beverages refers to the pure alcohol content in the pre-mixed drinks, and does not refer to the total volume of pre-mixed beverages that were drunk.

Statistical News

Statistical News

Developments In ABS Statistics

What are our farmers doing?

Australian farmers are custodians of over half of our nation's land mass.

What are their land management practices? How many use zero-till? To what extent do they monitor ground cover on grazing land? How much fertiliser, lime and dolomite are used?

Find the answers in Land Management and Farming in Australia, 2007-08 (cat. no. 4627.0), a new report released by the ABS.

Labour Force Survey

This is the moment we've all been waiting for! As a result of the recent Federal Budget announcements, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will be able to restore the sample size of its monthly Labour Force, Australia survey (cat. no. 6202.0) by January 2010.

The ABS will receive a much needed \$15 million in Government appropriation for the 2009-10 financial year, allowing it to reinstate, continue or enhance several programs including labour force, the retail survey and job vacancies survey.

The Australian Statistician, Mr Brian Pink, welcomed the Government's additional funding for the ABS. "In the current economic climate, the value of good statistics for decision making cannot be underestimated..." Mr Pink said.

Full details of changes to the ABS work program can be found on the homepage of the ABS website (www.abs.gov.au).

Indigenous Life Expectancy

As foreshadowed in the discussion paper Assessment of Methods for Developing Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2006 (cat. no. 3302.0.55.002) released in November 2008, the ABS has introduced a new method to produce the 2005-2007 Indigenous life tables.

While the underlying method of construction of the life tables remains the same, the method for accounting for under-identification of Indigenous deaths has changed.

Life expectancy at birth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Indigenous) Australians was 67.2 years for men (WA 65.0) and 72.9 years for women (WA 70.4) for 2005–2007, according to experimental figures released by the ABS.

The figures showed that the life expectancy of Indigenous men in Australia is 11.5 years lower than for non-Indigenous men (WA 14.0 years lower), while life expectancy of Indigenous women in Australia is 9.7 years lower than for non-Indigenous women (WA 12.5 years lower).

The First Issue!

Family and Community Connections, May 2009 (cat. no. 4918.0) was released 8 May 2009. This release is designed to highlight developments in family and community related statistics and provide links to recent data releases relevant to the field. This initial edition celebrates National Families Week and National Volunteer Week by highlighting selected statistics to illustrate the themes of each of these weeks.

Growing pains

WA has experienced high levels of population growth in several regions over the past 12 months, according to the ABS publication Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2007-08 (cat. no. 3218.0).

The City of Perth was Australia's fastest growing local government area. It increased 10.8% in that 12 month period. Rapid growth was also recorded along the Western Australian coast in Mandurah (5.1%) and Busselton (4.6%).

The City of Wanneroo increased by 8,552 people, the largest increase in absolute numbers.

Three quarters of WA's population growth occurred in the Perth Statistical Division.

Client Liaison

Client Liaison

Summary of Events

sWAn User Group

Farewell to the Economic and Social Statistics Consultative Groups (ESCG & SSCG) and a big warm welcome to the Statistics WA Network (sWAn)!

During the last quarter, a committee consisting of members from the former groups, along with representatives from the ABS, met to discuss the feasibility of creating a relevant and new statistics network for WA.

The committee hope to organise the delivery of interesting presentations that have practical applicability to those attending and that are likely to generate discussion.

The first sWAn meeting was held on June 10 at Allendale Square with guest presenters Tom Mulholland from the Department for Planning and Infrastructure and Phil Smythe from the ABS.



A Real Life Mr. Average

In last quarter's Stats Talk WA magazine, Phil Smythe of the Client Liaison Unit published an article titled "An Average Case - The Search for a Mean Person".

The article used Census data in an attempt to track down the average Western Australian.

Phil's article narrowed a field of 2.16 million Western Australians down to a mere 32 average people - no mean feat.

A few months after being published, a 'modern day' Mr. Average was surprisingly discovered in an ABS 'Free Stats on the Web' training seminar.



Out and About

Information Skills Program manager Margaret Garner and Information Consultancy guru Howard Garner are representing the ABS on a Roadshow being held at the Great Southern TAFE in Albany.

The Roadshow provides an ideal opportunity for the ABS to increase statistical literacy within the broader community by training participants in basic ABS Website navigation and the highly powerful CDATA online Census tool.

Marg and Howard are experienced campaigners and have previously offered their services in a similar fashion at the Dowerin Field Day and the Government Business Information Network.

"Howard and I have over 50 years service with the ABS and continue to be excited by the huge range of information that is available free of charge" said Marg.



Recent Releases

Recent Releases

Publications of Interest

Publication Title	ABS Catalogue Number
Western Australia at a Glance, 2009	1306.5
Western Australian Statistical Indicators, Jun 2009	1367.5
Perspectives on Sport, May 2009	4156.0.55.001
National Health Survey: Summary of Results, 2007-08	4364.0
Land Management and Farming in Australia, 2007-08	4627.0
Assets and Liabilities of Australian Securitised, Mar 2009	5232.0.55.001
International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia, Apr, 2009	5368.0
Housing Finance, Australia, Apr 2009	5609.0
Business Indicators, Australia, Mar 2009	5676.0
Labour Mobility and Intentions, Western Australia, Oct 2008	6209.5
Locations of Work, Nov 2008	6275.0
Not-for-profit Organisations, Australia, 2006-07	8106.0
Retail Trade, Australia, Apr 2009	8501.0
Construction Work Done, Australia, Preliminary, Mar 2009	8755.0

Sizzling Statistics

Sizzling Statistics

Wires Uncrossed!

Wireless broadband subscriptions in Australia tripled in 2008. Wireless connections accounted for 21% (or 1,462,000) of all broadband subscriptions, up from 481,000 in December 2007. (cat. no. 8153.0)

Cut The Crop

Australian crop production increased in 2007-08 in comparison to the previous year, but generally remains at the lowest levels in five years. (cat. no. 7121.0)

Try Before You Buy

Around 75% of Aussies who married in the new millennium lived together beforehand, but just 3% of people who married in the 1960s (and are still married) lived together first. (cat. no. 4102.0)

From Rags To Riches

In August 2008, almost one in five (19.1%) employees in Australia earned \$1,400 or more per week. (cat. no. 6305.0.55.001)

Cough, Cough, Splutter

One in five Australian adults (20%) were current smokers in 2007-08 which was down from 23% in 2004-05. Seven percent of children aged 15-17 smoked and 66% of these were males. (cat. no. 4364.0)

Dude, Where's My Car?

Motor vehicle theft in Australia hit its lowest level since national reporting began - 68,000 vehicles in 2008 compared to 112,000 vehicles in 1993. (cat. no. 4510.0)

Here Today Gone Tomorrow

Short-term visitor arrivals to Australia during April 2009 (477,300 movements) rose 0.8% compared with March 2009 (473,600 movements).

Short-term resident departures from Australia during April 2009 (483,000 movements), recorded an increase of 0.5% compared with March 2009 (480,700 movements). (cat. no. 3401.0)

Statistical Training

Statistical Training

Improve Your Skills

Turning Data Into Information

Overview

This course develops skills in interpreting and analysing data and communicating information clearly and effectively.

Analytical thinking skills are developed to enable the transformation of data into meaningful information such as written reports.

Course outcomes

- Ability to draw conclusions from analysis
- Communicate results effectively
- Present tables and graphs properly
- Recognise possible pitfalls in analysis
- Understanding of how the collection and compilation of data affect its usefulness, quality and relevance

Who should attend

People working with data who wish to extract relevant information and communicate that information to a variety of audiences, eg through written reports.

Date: 04/08/09 - 05/08/09 (2 day course)

Cost: \$750 (inc. GST)

Registrations: Naomi Summers - (08) 9360 5205

About this Release

Stats Talk is a newsletter produced by the Western Australian office of the ABS. It provides information about new developments, publications, seminars, training and reviews

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